

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5916

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2964

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJ: LOCKHEED SCANDAL STATUS REPORT

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS. BEGINNING SUNDAY, FEB. 22, IL MESSAGGERO HAS BEEN PRINTING EACH DAY PHOTO COPY PLUS TRANSLATION OF A "MISSING DOCUMENT" FROM WHAT IS CALLED HERE THE CHURCH REPORT. SO FAR THEY HAVE RUN ITEMS MARKED 80, 81, AND 82. (BEING POUCHED TO EUR/WE) NONE OF WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN DOCUMENTS POUCHED TO EMBASSY. THESE DOCUMENTS SEEM TO REPEAT MATERIAL PRINTED EARLIER, WITH ADDED CREDIBILITY DERIVING FROM ROUGH NON-MANUFACTURED LOOK OF XEROX COPIES. NONE OF THE DOCUMENTS, PER SE, WOULD SEEM TO PUT A "SMOKING GUN" IN THE HAND OF ANY POLITICAL/INDUSTRIAL/MILITARY NOTABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WEEKEND TESTIMONY OF ARRESTED MID-LEVEL ATTORNEY VITTORIO ANTONELLI WAS EVIDENTLY SUFFICIENT TO IMPLICATE CAMILLO CROCIANI, PRESIDENT OF LARGE STATE HOLDING COMPANY FINMECCANICA. SCANDAL CONTINUES TO GET IMPRESSIVE MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTENTION (THERE IS A DIFFERENCE) AND IS WITH EACH PASSING DAY FURTHER DAMAGING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DC AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF ITALY'S INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP. MAGISTRATE RENEWS HIS REQUEST FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR INTERVIEWS WITH LOCKHEED OFFICIALS IN US. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS).

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2. CROCIANI AND NINMECCANICA. INTERROGATION OF FIGURES

CONNECTED WITH THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAVE LINKED CAMILLO CROCIANI, PRESIDENT OF IRI-FINMECCANICA, STATE-CONTROLLED HOLDING COMPANY IN METALWORKING SECTOR (ALFA ROMEO -AUTOMOBILES, AERITALIA - AIRFRAMES, ANSALDO MECCANICA NUCLEAR (AMN) - NUCLEAR REACTORS, ASGEN - TRANSFORMERS AND OTHERS) WITH COM.EL., A "PAPER" COMPANY ALLEGEDLY THE RECIPIENT OF LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. CROCIANI'S RESIGNATION FROM FINMECCANICA, FORCED BY THE IRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS DURING AN EXTRAORDINARY SUNDAY (FEB. 22) MEETING, CAME COINCIDENTALLY ONLY 30 MINUTES AFTER INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE MARTELLA EXTRACTED AN ADMISSION OF CROCIANI'S INVOLVEMENT FROM ATTORNEY ANTONELLI. A WARRANT FOR CROCIANI'S ARREST ON CORRUPTION CHARGES WAS ISSUED, BUT POLICE CHECKS OF HIS RESIDENCES REVEALED LITTLE EXCEPT THAT CROCIANI HAD FLED ITALY WITH HIS FAMILY AND PERSONAL PAPERS. HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

3. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS FULL IMPLICATIONS OF CROCIANI'S DISMISSAL AND FLIGHT; MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON WHETHER THE CONTENTS OF CROCIANI'S FILES ARE EVER BROUGHT TO LIGHT. PRESS REPORTS INTIMATE THAT CROCIANI WAS MAJOR LINK BETWEEN POLITICIANS, PRIMARILY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, AND THE FAVORS AND PATRONAGE WHICH THE STATE-CONTROLLED INDUSTRIES ARE IN A POSITION TO DISPENSE. END COMMENT. VOLPE

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